

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 14355 031637Z

62

ACTION EUR-12

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INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

CINC EUR VAHINGEN

CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 14355

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, GWO

SUBJECT: GERMAN NEWSPAPER REPORTS RE WITHDRAWAL OF
NIKE-HERCULES BATTERIES

1. DURING THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS, NUMEROUS GERMAN NEWS-
PAPERS HAVE PICKED UP A STORY ORIGINATING IN WASHINGTON
TO THE EFFECT THAT THE PENTAGON PLANS TO REDUCE THE
NUMBER OF NIKE-HERCULES BATTERIES IN THE FRG FROM
SIXTEEN TO EIGHT. THE STORIES CONTINUED THAT THIS INFOR-
MATION HAD CAUSED CONCERN AMONG FMOD OFFICIALS, SINCE
THEY LEARNED OF IT FROM NEWSPAPER REPORTS RATHER THAN
FROM DIRECT CONSULTATIONS WITH THE USG. SOME NEWSPAPERS
INDICATED THAT THE STORY WAS FALSE, AND THAT BOTH DOD
AND FMOD HAD DENIED THE REPORTS.

2. COMMENT: IN A DISCUSSION WITH AN FMOD OFFICIAL ON
SEPTEMBER 3, IT BECAME CLEAR TO US THAT THE NEWSPAPER
REPORTS ABOUT GERMAN DEFENSE OFFICIALS BEING UPSET
WERE ACCURATE. OUR SOURCE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WAS
TRYING TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT WAS
SAID IN WASHINGTON THROUGH THE FRG MILITARY ATTACHE AS
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PAGE 02 BONN 14355 031637Z

WELL AS THROUGH NATO CHANNELS. THE EMBASSY WOULD

APPRECIATE RECEIVING EXPEDITIOUS GUIDANCE FROM THE
DEPARTMENT REGARDING THIS MATTER. END COMMENT.
HILLENBRAND

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